

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 through 8 (canceled)

1 9. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient
2 undergoing treatment with a gestagen hormone composition for
3 hormone replacement therapy, for inflammation, for an in vitro
4 fertilization program, for dermatological therapy or for
5 cosmetological treatment to reduce a risk to the patient of
6 thromboembolism induced by taking the gestagen hormone, which
7 comprises the step of administering to the patient simultaneously,
8 previously or subsequently to taking the gestagen hormone
9 composition a therapeutically effective amount of a plasma
10 homocysteine reducing agent.

1 10. (Previously presented) The method of treatment
2 defined in claim 9 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent
3 is a compound selected from the group consisting of Vitamin B₁₂,
4 betaine, choline, and acetylcysteine.

1 11. (Previously presented) The method of treatment
2 defined in claim 9 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent
3 is folic acid.

1 12. (Previously presented) The method of treatment
2 defined in claim 9 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent
3 is Vitamin B₆.

13 - 19 (canceled)

1 20. (Currently amended) A method of reducing a risk to
2 an otherwise healthy patient of thromboembolism induced by
3 administration of a gestagen hormone to said patient for
4 contraception comprising the step of administering to the patient
5 simultaneously, previously or subsequently to taking the gestagen
6 hormone composition a therapeutically effective amount of a plasma
7 homocysteine reducing agent.

21 - 24 (canceled)

1 25. (Previously presented) A method of treating a
2 patient taking a composition comprising a gestagen hormone to
3 reduce a risk of thromboembolism induced by taking the gestagen
4 hormone, which comprises the step of administering to the patient
5 simultaneously, previously or subsequently to taking the
6 composition comprising the gestagen hormone, a therapeutically
7 effective amount of Vitamin B₁₂, betaine, choline or acetyl
8 cysteine.

1 26. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 20 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is a compound selected from the group consisting of
4 Vitamin B₁₂, betaine, choline, and acetylcysteine.

1 27. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 20 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is folic acid.

1 28. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 20 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is Vitamin B₆.

1 29. (New) A method of treating a patient undergoing
2 treatment with a gestagen hormone composition to reduce a risk to
3 the patient of thromboembolism induced by taking the gestagen
4 hormone composition, comprising the step of administering to the
5 patient simultaneously, previously or subsequently to taking the
6 gestagen hormone composition, a therapeutically effective amount of
7 a plasma homocysteine reducing agent other than folic acid.

1 30. (New) The method of treatment defined in claim 29
2 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent is a compound
3 selected from the group consisting of Vitamin B₁₂, betaine, choline,
4 and acetylcysteine.

1 31. (New) The method of treatment defined in claim 29
2 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent is Vitamin B₆.

1 32. (New) A method of reducing a risk of thromboembolism
2 upon administration of a gestagen hormone to an otherwise healthy
3 patient who may be threatened by an elevated plasma homocysteine
4 level as a result of the administration of the gestagen hormone
5 composition which comprises the step of administering to the
6 patient simultaneously, previously or subsequently to the gestagen
7 hormone, a therapeutically effective amount of a plasma
8 homocysteine reducing agent.

1 33. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 32 wherein the otherwise healthy
3 patient is from a class of individuals whose plasma homocysteine
4 levels have been elevated by administering to the patient a
5 gestagen hormone composition and where the patient's plasma
6 homocysteine level is reduced following administration of the
7 plasma homocysteine reducing agent.

1 34. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 33 wherein the patient has been
3 administered the gestagen hormone composition for contraception,
4 for hormone replacement therapy, for inflammation, for an in vitro
5 fertilization program, for dermatological therapy or for
6 cosmetological treatment.

1 35. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 33 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of folic acid,
4 Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, betaine, choline, and acetylcysteine.

1 36. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 9 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is folic acid administered in an amount of 0.5 to 5
4 mg/day.

1 37. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 29 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is Vitamin B₆ administered in an amount of 10 to 300
4 mg/day.

1 38. (new) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 29 wherein the plasma homocysteine
3 reducing agent is Vitamin B₁₂ administered in an amount of 300 μ g to
4 5 mg/day.

1 39. (New) The method of reducing a risk of
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 20 wherein the gestagen hormone is
3 administered to the patient for contraception or for hormone
4 replacement therapy.